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City Council tackles new business with revamped membership

By James Windell

After three new council members were sworn in, the South Haven City Council got down to business in taking on issues necessary at the first city council meeting of the new year on January 5, 2026.

One of the first items of business was to appoint a new mayor pro-tem. Councilmember Jeff Arnold, from Ward 2, was the designated choice for the position and he was approved as the mayor pro-tem for 2026.

There were three other issues on the agenda under New Business which were dispatched with relative speed. The first of these issues was a request from the City Manager to pass a resolution to update the Poverty Tax Exemption, Special Assessments Poverty Tax Exemption, and the updated Poverty Guidelines for 2026.

In introducing the request for passage of two resolutions, City Manager Kate Hosier told the City Council that passing these resolutions related to the Poverty Tax Exemption is "standard business for the first of the year."

The Poverty Tax Exemption (also called the "Hardship Exemption") is a Michigan program under MCL 211.7u that allows qualifying low-income homeowners to receive a full or partial exemption from property taxes on their principal residence. A local Board of Review can grant property tax exemptions ranging from 25% to 100% if the homeowner meets certain eligibility requirements. Each local government must adopt their own policies.

Resolution 2026-01 was a resolution updating state-required poverty level income standards for special assessments, while Resolution 2026-02 was a resolution updating state-required poverty level income standards for property tax exemptions.

Hosier said that the city staff was recommending a level 15% above federal poverty guidelines, and she explained that "By law, we cannot go below that."

A motion was made to adopt both resolutions. There was no discussion and both were unanimously passed.

Next on the agenda for the City Council was Resolution 2026-03. This resolution was to appoint a Board of Review, establish a rate of compensation for the Board, and set a meeting schedule for this year.

According to Hosier, this resolution was also typical business for the start of the year and that appointing a Board of Review, setting compensation, and determining meeting dates were all required by state law.

City staff recommended that the following members be appointed to the Board of Review: Elaine Shumaker, Mark Reece, Kilby Brandt, and Patti Owens. It was also recommended that each member and alternate member of the 2026 Board of Review would be compensated at a rate of $50.00 for attending the March Organizational Meeting, $100.00 per day for each day the member sits in session for hearing of appeals, and $25.00 for attending the July meeting, and $25.00 for attending the December meeting.

Resolution 2026-03, naming these members and setting the above rate of compensation, was passed with no discussion and no opposition.

The third item of business was to introduce an ordinance to amend Section 62-27 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of South Haven.

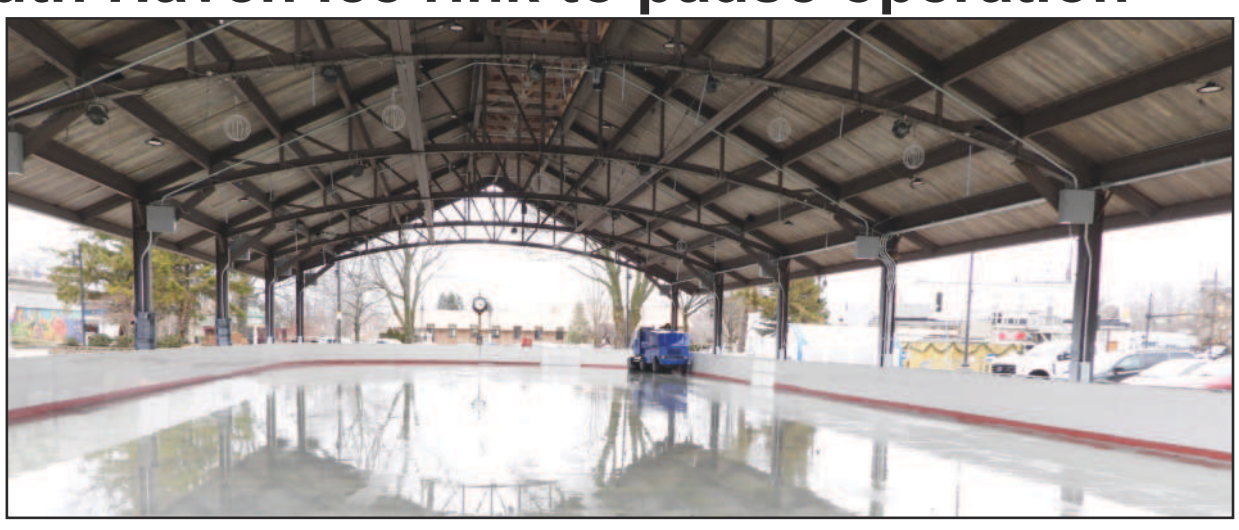
City Manager Hosier began discussion of this recommendation to amend the city's ordinances. "It has been brought to our attention that there is an ordnance on the books that prohibits an individual from serving on the Planning Commission and any other board," Hosier said. "We currently have one member who serves on the Planning Commission, Larry Heinig, as well as on the Construction Board of Appeals."

Hosier said that she was recommending that the ordinance be changed so that individuals would not be prohibited from serving on the Planning Commission as well as on other boards or commissions. City Attorney Dave Eberle explained that other cities have had a similar ordinance but repealed it. The reason he said was to allow greater flexibility in making appointments to boards.

Councilman David Flack said that he was concerned about repealing the specific prohibition because it might lead to a lack of diversity in appointing people to serve on boards. Other council members seemed to agree with Flack's position.

After discussion, it was decided that the issue would be on the agenda for future city council meetings so that it could be re-introduced and given greater consideration.

High temps cause South Haven ice rink to pause operation



Unseasonal temperatures that approached 60 degrees this past week presented challenges for South Haven city staff who maintain the ice at the Pavillion rink. The warm temps caused a pause at the popular wintertime attraction.

Airport agrees to stop cutting down trees on private property

By James Windell

At a meeting last week between residents whose property abuts the South Haven Regional Airport and Airport authorities, it was agreed that trees that were obstructing the landing at the airport could be trimmed – rather than chopped down.

That outcome pleased Lee and Linda Goldner as well as their neighbors. "Our meeting with Dan Sandborn, the Airport manager, and Luke and Mike from Treeworks, was handled very professionally and they seemed sincere about doing as little trimming as possible," says Lee Goldner.

While this might not be the best solution for the airport, it does help to clear the way for full licensing of the airport.

Linda Goldner was at the meeting of the Airport Authority on Friday, January 9, 2026. The only item on the agenda was a proposal from TreeWorks, the company hired to trim and remove trees, for dealing with the trees obstructing the Part 77 approach surface at the airport.

Stephanie Ward, a representative from Mead & Hunt, the consulting firm that is working with the airport to remove obstructions that may be hazardous to flights coming and going from the airport, was on a speaker phone to update Airport Authority members about progress in the obstruction removal process.

Ward provided a context for the project by stating that there are six parcels with easements purchased by the airport in 2008 for tree removal. One of those parcels is now airport property, leaving three for the current project that belong to residents living near the airport.

She said that regular tree pruning has been required every three to five years, depending on growth rates. Recent LiDAR surveys (LiDAR is a remote-sensing method that uses laser pulses; airports rely on them to create 3D models of runways) and airport layout plan updates have identified approximately 100 trees needing attention, with many previously pruned and some new growth now tall enough to require action. Ward said, however, that only one tree will be fully removed and ground out and that will be done through property owner consent; the rest will be pruned 10 feet below the approach surface to allow for regrowth while maintaining compliance.

She went on to say that TreeWorks will coordinate all work, using certified arborists and industry standards. But the need for ongoing maintenance is driven by federal grant assurances and recent inspection placing the airport under a provisional license until obstructions are cleared. Clearing three parcels now is a step toward full compliance, but another parcel still requires negotiation and won't be addressed until late next fall or winter.

Ward reported that TreeWorks initially quoted a price of $115,000 for the project, although that amount has been refined to $94,360 for addressing 101 trees on three parcels, including debris removal and site restoration. "If 11 specific trees are not removed," Ward said, "the cost could drop by around $7,500."

She told the Airport Authority that funding options for this project include using the airport's discretionary funds (which stands at over $200,000 currently), the local budget (about $70,000 budgeted for this project), or an MDOT aeronautics loan, which could be up to $100,000, covering 90% of the project, and repayable over 10 years with a modest interest rate.

Discussion by the Authority determined that the MDOT loan approval process can be expedited due to urgency, with possible payment availability by March or April of this year. It was also stated that TreeWorks is willing to accept partial immediate payment and wait for final payment.

Led by Chair Jonathan Woodhams, discussion by the Authority centered on cash flow management, timing of municipal payments, and balancing use of discretionary funds versus taking out a loan for part of the cost. Consensus of the Airport Authority leaned toward using budgeted funds and reserves now, while keeping the loan as a backup.

Members of the Authority acknowledged the frustration of repeated spending on tree maintenance, but they also recognized the necessary for this in order for compliance and continued operation.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the TreeWorks quote for trimming as necessary across the three parcels.

"Of course, we know that this trimming process will have to be repeated in another few years," concluded Goldner, "but we hope that whoever is doing it then will have the same attitude and concern for our trees."

South Haven commemorates 50th anniversary of police officer's death

By James Windell

The 50th anniversary of the death of South Haven Police Officer Michael McAllister was commemorated on January 9, 2026 with a brief but emotional ceremony in front of the city hall.

Speaking to a crowd gathered to remember the life – and death – of Officer McAllister, Police Chief Adam DeBoer's voice broke momentarily as he said that he didn't know McAllister.

"I never had the honor of meeting Officer McAllister, but in many ways I feel like I know him," DeBoer said. "I know he cared deeply about this community, and that he often put others before himself, and I know he proved this with his life."

Michael McAllister, a five-year veteran of the South Haven Police Department, was shot and killed in the line of duty on January 9, 1976.

Officer McAllister responded to a report of gunshots early in the morning on January 9. He located a suspect and began to pat him down. With his back turned during the search, the suspect fired a gun through his own coat hitting McAllister three times in the stomach. McAllister died from his injuries shortly afterward.

"Officer McAllister understood the dangers that come with wearing this uniform," DeBoer said, "and he served every shift and put it on and served with dedication. Every police officer in the South Haven Police Department knows these same dangers exist today – and every day we make the same choice as Officer McAllister did."

McAllister, who was 38 at the time of his death, is remembered as a kind, community focused officer who knew residents on his beat and regularly checked on their safety. His son Gregory also spoke briefly at the ceremony.

Gregory thanked the police for remembering his dad and later said, "I really lost a big part of my life when he left. He was my mentor. He was my dad. I'm glad he instilled respect and morals in me for me to live this old and be a representative of him."

As he laid the wreath on the memorial for his father, Gregory whispered, "I love you, Dad."

Remembering the Death of Officer McAllister and the man who shot him

Police Chief Adam DeBoer

By James Windell

The story of South Haven Police Officer Michael McAllister's death remains as a stark reminder of how a routine assignment can take a deadly turn.

South Haven Police Chief Adam DeBoer said as much at the January 9, 2026, ceremony commemorating McAllister's death when he said, "Officer McAllister understood the dangers that come with wearing this uniform…Every police officer in the South Haven Police Department knows these same dangers exist today."

The story began in the early morning hours of January 9, 1976, when a report was received of shots fired on North Shore Drive. Since the South Haven Police Department was a small department with just a few officers, McAllister was alone when he was dispatched to check on the report.

McAllister located a suspect, Richard Frederick Dixon, who was hitchhiking along North Shore Drive just north of South Haven's city limits. McAllister approached Dixon and began to pat him down. With his back to McAllister, Dixon fired his 9-millimeter handgun through his coat, striking McAllister in the stomach three times.

Former police officer Paul C. Hogan, who attended the memorial ceremony on January 9, 2026, recalls what happened.

"Me and trooper Larry Bild were at the South Haven post that night," he recalls. "We got dispatched by the desk sergeant about shots fired up by the Sleepy Hollow area and there was heavy snow coming down and as we came around the curve on North Shore Drive, we saw Mac in the road. My partner held Mac in his arms until emergency arrived."

Once McAllister was taken by ambulance to South Haven Hospital, where he died, Hogan says a perimeter was set up. Dixon had fled the scene on foot and police tracked his footprints in fresh snow which ended at the basement door of a house owned by automobile dealer William Decker. They found Dixon in the crawlspace of the cottage. "We dragged him out and made the arrest," Hogan remembers.

Richard Frederick Dixon was born in 1940 in Pontiac, Michigan, and grew up in St. Clair, Michigan. After serving two years in the U.S. Navy, he was charged with burglary in New York. Initially found incompetent to stand trial, he was sent to Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane for three years. After his release, he pleaded guilty in 1967, received a suspended sentence, and was placed on probation. Returning to Michigan, he tried to rob a credit union.

On March 17, 1968, at 6:30 a.m., Dixon was arrested for burglary at the Diamond Crystal Employee's Federal Credit Union in St. Clair, Michigan. A neighbor heard a noise at the credit union and called the police. Police officer Elmer D. Shirkey responded to the call and arrested Dixon as he tried to escape from the back of the building. He had stolen $16. Dixon was charged in federal court with robbery and, again, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Imprisoned at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, he received credit for good behavior and was released on probation in August, 1971.

Just two months later, he hijacked Eastern Airlines Flight 953 which had been scheduled to fly from Detroit to Miami and then to continue to San Juan, Puerto Rico. On the morning of the flight, Dixon bought a one-way ticket, using an alias of "R. Johnson." Just as he reached a metal detector at the boarding gate, Dixon pulled a .38-caliber pistol, told employees to get out of his way, and boarded the plane. The boarding door was shut behind Dixon with 33 of the intended 98 passengers on board. Once on board, Dixon pointed his gun at the head of 23-year-old stewardess, Carol Bollinger, and ordered the pilot, W. E. Buchanan, to fly to Havana.

The plane was given immediate clearance to depart and took off at 9:29 a.m. During the flight, Dixon sat in the passenger area behind the cockpit with his gun pointed at Bollinger. Dixon claimed to be a convicted bank robber, a member of various extremist organizations, and an admirer of Angela Davis and Soledad Brother George Jackson.

After the plane landed in Havana, Dixon requested political asylum and was permitted to deboard. The plane was held in Havana for several hours and then returned to Miami. Later, Dixon returned to the United States. And murdered Officer McAllister in 1976.

A preliminary hearing in the McAllister murder was held in Allegan County's 57th district court on January 21, 1976. The state presented testimony that police had tracked footprints from the murder scene to the house where Dixon was discovered, that Dixon admitted dropping a weapon while running, and that he possessed bullets matching the murder weapon when he was arrested. At the end of the hearing, Dixon was ordered to be held without bond.

Dixon's defense counsel filed a pre-trial motion to change venue contending that adverse publicity would make it impossible for him to receive a fair trial in the county where McAllister was killed. The motion was denied, but jury selection consumed two weeks to allow detailed questioning of potential jurors so as to exclude those who may have been prejudiced by pretrial publicity.

At the trial, Dixon's lawyer stipulated that Dixon shot McAllister and contended that Dixon acted in self-defense. Dixon testified that a car pulled up behind him, and "a large man jumped out and grabbed me by the front of my coat." Dixon testified that the man then hit him in the face, possibly twice, and then grabbed him by the coat and threw him toward the car. At that point, Dixon said he turned and fired his gun. Dixon claimed that he feared for his life and could not tell in the dark that the vehicle was a police car or that the man who struck him was in uniform.

The jury returned its verdict on July 27, 1976, rejecting the prosecution's request for a conviction of first-degree murder. The jury instead found Dixon guilty of second-degree murder. Prior to the trial for murder, Dixon was arraigned in federal court in Detroit on March 30, 1976, on charges of air piracy and kidnapping. A trial on these charges took place in December, 1976. At the time, it was only the third hijacking case to go to trial in the U.S.

Dixon claimed during trial that the charge was a case of mistaken identity, but the government presented testimony from 10 witnesses who identified Dixon as the person who hijacked the flight. At the end of a seven-day trial, the jury deliberated for only four hours and found Dixon guilty of both air piracy and kidnapping. He was sentenced to serve 40 years in prison; this sentence was to start after he completed his life sentence on the state murder charge.

Incarcerated at Jackson Prison, in June 1982, Dixon and five other inmates attempted to escape. They were caught before they could scale a 10-foot security fence. He would remain in Michigan prisons until 2021, when he was paroled. But following that, he was transferred to the Federal Correctional Institution in Hazelton, West Virginia.

As of today, it is not known where Dixon is or where he currently resides. Records indicate that he is no longer incarcerated in a state or federal prison.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

South Haven teachers reach agreement on salary schedule

By James Windell

Despite what some people thought, South Haven teachers have not been working without a contract.

Instead, what they haven't had was a new and revised salary schedule.

As of Thursday night, January 8, 2026, that seems to have been rectified. According to both Jessica Fiedorowicz, President of the South Haven Education Association, and Ana Aleman-Putman, Superintendent of South Haven Public Schools, an agreement was reached on a new salary schedule.

"I just want to make it clear that this agreement was a reopener and is not our entire contract," explained Fiedorowicz. "This reopener was built into our last bargaining agreement – to have a salary reopener for the 2025-2026 school year."

Although it was hoped that a new salary schedule could have been negotiated by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, this was not possible.

"We met with the district in the Spring last year," said Andrea Jegier, the former President of the South Haven Education Association, "and we agreed to wait for the School Aid budget to come out. That often comes out at the end of June, but that budget didn't come out until October. It's hard to negotiate without real numbers, so that delayed our bargaining. But it meant teachers starting the year without any common agreement on our salary schedule."

Michigan issues a State School Aid Budget each year, which spells out what funds will go to each school district.

However, without a new salary schedule in South Haven, teachers have been very concerned about their salaries. This was emphasized at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, when several teachers made statements to the School Board and the Superintendent explaining their plight – and their dilemma.

Adam Lurie, a teacher at North Shore Elementary School, told the Board that he calculated that his household expenses increased by 30% in 2025 from 2024. "But I have not seen an increase in pay since September, 2024," Lurie said. "This is where I want to be and where I want to end my career, but it's becoming more difficult."

South Haven kindergarten teacher Ashley Purgiel said she came to work in South Haven because she wanted to return to teach where she went to school. "Now that I'm a veteran teacher," Purgiel said, "it feels like our value is not being reciprocated. New teachers are starting out about where I am after 15 years of experience. That's both disheartening and discouraging."

Another teacher, Heather Schalupa, who has taught for 25 years, said that she has devoted her career to South Haven Schools and to the community. "Despite my husband's suggestion that I look around other districts for those offering higher salaries," she said, "I am staying, even though our district is one of the lowest paying districts in the county. I want to continue to work here, but I also want to feel valued and supported."

"The Board of Education has been working with us," said Fiedorowicz two days later. "I think it was important for the Board to hear our teachers on Wednesday night."

Speaking about the negotiations, Aleman-Putman said that "One of my goals has been to be very collaborative and transparent with the school district's employees during wage negotiations, which this year has included food service, transportation, and now teachers. We are one team, and I don't view these negotiations as 'us vs. them.' Teachers, educators, do an incredibly important job, and they deserve to be paid well and appreciated."

Fiedorowicz said that with the agreement the effort to bring teacher's salaries up to acceptable levels has not been fully corrected. "We continue to survey and outline priorities and push priorities to our membership," she said. "We were able to correct a large portion of what we needed to deal with in this agreement. But there's always more work to be done in bargaining."

Superintendent Aleman-Putman said that both sides worked very collaboratively and transparently "with the best interests of all staff at the forefront."

She added that both sides engaged in meaningful discussion around a variety of proposals and "ultimately moved toward an agreement that was fiscally responsible while also addressing the top priorities of our teachers." She viewed the negotiation process as productive and collaborative.

"I think we reached the best contract possible at this time," she said. "Following Thursday's meeting, we are all very encouraged by the progress made."

The agreement, according to Fiedorowicz, will be presented to the teachers on Monday, January 12, and voting will be completed by January 13. If ratified by the teachers, it will go before the School Board for approval.

VFW Celery City Post 6248 to hold reverse raffle, dinner

Gold Star Families Memorial Monument
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Gold Star Families and Relatives
who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom.

DECATUR – The Decatur VFW Celery City Post 6248 will hold a Reverse Raffle and Dinner, Saturday, Jan. 24, with dinner from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the raffle starting at 7 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. First Prize is $7,500. There will be additional cash prizes, as well as other non-cash prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Woody Williams Foundation – Paw Paw MI Gold Star Family Memorial Monument. The cost per ticket is $100, with only 200 printed. Tickets are available at the VFW Post, in person, or call (269) 423-7454, or call Rina at (269) 919-2999. Need not be present to win. Must be 21 years of age or older to purchase either ticket.

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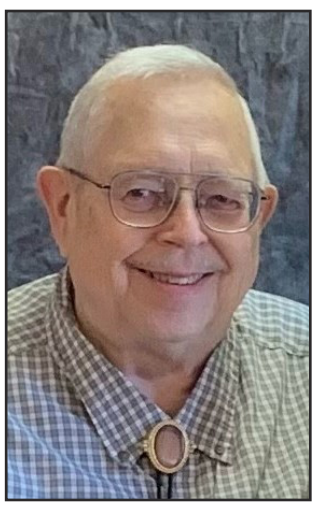
Paw Paw grad receives Navy Award

IT2 (IW) Johnny Fonseca, III, was named the Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025. He is currently stationed at Naval Computer Telecommunications Station Bahrain as the Lead System administrator for Indian Ocean Region Network Operations Center. A graduate of Paw Paw High School, he has served three and a half years in the Navy.

OBITUARY



Lawrence (Larry) Lee Allen was born on July 3, 1942, at Pipp Community Hospital, Plainwell, Mich., to Gordon and Donna (Deaner) Allen. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on Jan. 8, 2026.

He served the Lord in areas of deaconship, treasurer, song leader, usher, and on two pulpit committees at several Bible believing churches. His favorite Bible verse was John 3:16 and prays that anyone reading this has asked Jesus into their heart to be the Lord and Savior of their life.

He graduated high school and joined the United States Navy. He attained the rank of Sonar Man Second Class Petty Officer, aboard the Destroyer USS Jenkins. Following his four years in the Navy, he was employed at Consumers Energy for 35 years before retiring in 2001.

His precious wife, Roberta Anne Allen, preceded him in death in December of 2021, as well as Marilynn Riggs in 2023. He is survived by his loving wife, Karen Kellogg.

Larry is survived by his sons, Chris (Kathy) Allen and Jeff Allen; grandchildren, Nichole (Brandon) Allen, Zoey (Jimmy) Sandahl and MacKenzie Allen; great-grandson, Wesley Sandahl; brother, Dennis (Gail) Allen and nieces, Pamela (Robert) and Cheryl (Robert).

In accordance with his wishes, cremation will take place. There will be a memorial service held at 12th Street Baptist Church, 3911 S. 12th St., Kalamazoo, Mich., on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at noon, with a luncheon to follow. Private interment at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich., will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to 12th Street Baptist Church Missions.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

VBISD awarded $1,012,860 to expand out-of-school time programs

LAWRENCE - Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) has been awarded $1,012,860 through Michigan's 32n Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant, administered by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).

Van Buren Youth Initiative (VBYI) will utilize the grant to expand OST programming in eight local school districts - Decatur, Gobles, Bloomingdale, Lawrence, Hartford, Lawton, Mattawan, and South Haven- along with the VBISD Summer Migrant Program, increasing access to safe, engaging, and enriching environments beyond the traditional school day. VBYI is a countywide program coordinated by the Van Buren Intermediate School District that provides free, high-quality out-of-school opportunities for students.

"For Van Buren County, the 32n Out-of-School Time grant represents more than funding; it represents opportunity," said Erin Kucharski, Van Buren Youth Initiative Coordinator. "This investment allows our community to open doors for students who need safe, welcoming places to learn, connect, and belong beyond the school day. Through expanded programming, students across the county will have greater access to experiences that build confidence and support their academic and personal growth."

The 32n OST grant is designed to reduce barriers to participation for families while strengthening student engagement, social development, and academic success. In communities where transportation, income, and geography can limit access, this funding helps ensure equitable opportunities for youth.

"What I'm most proud of is that this funding turns years of relationship-building into real, tangible opportunities for students," Kucharski added. "It helps level the playing field so more young people can walk into safe, welcoming spaces after school and in the summer and know they belong there. This work strengthens partnerships and allows communities to build on what already works while meeting students where they are."

VBYI will work in collaboration with participating districts and community partners, including South Haven Center for the Arts, Luc's Light, and His Place Outreach Center, to offer programming that may include mentoring, leadership development, arts, physical activity, and academic enrichment. Local educators, artists, and volunteers will play a crucial role in creating supportive environments where students can explore their interests and develop skills for the future.

Kucharski also expressed gratitude to the many partners who helped make the grant possible.

"We are sincerely thankful to MiLEAP for this opportunity to expand out-of-school time programming across Van Buren County, and to the Van Buren ISD School Board for their leadership and support. I am grateful to Dave Manson, Rebecca DePas, and Melissa Corona for their guidance and encouragement, as well as the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners for their early investment that allowed us to pursue this opportunity. Most importantly, we thank our schools, community partners, and the teachers, artists, and volunteers who show up for our students every day. This work is only possible because so many people believe in our young people and invest in their future."

MiLEAP awarded more than $73 million statewide to support Out-of-School Time programming, expanding access to high-quality learning opportunities for students across Michigan. Through this investment, VBISD and VBYI are strengthening countywide partnerships and ensuring more students have access to meaningful, engaging learning experiences beyond the classroom, supporting not only academic success but confidence, connection, and long-term growth.

Former Decatur school building undergoing transformation

Progress is being made on the historic Bergen Building in Decatur. It is a collaborative project between the Van Buren County Landbank, the Village of Decatur, State Land Bank and Market One.

Photos courtesy/ Market One

Paw Paw grad presents magic with a message to students

An all-student assembly held Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Paw Paw High School's Performing Arts Center (PAC), as well as Paw Paw Middle School, featured the Magic of Trino. In addition to performing magic tricks, both performances included student participation and a positive message encouraging students to find their purpose and passion, which was well received at both schools. During his presentation at the PAC, Trino, a PPHS graduate, shared a montage of photos of himself learning his craft over the years. He also spoke highly of how the teachers and staff and Paw Paw Public Schools believed in him and encouraged him to pursue his dreams.

Photos courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools

Dissette to become Ottawa County Deputy County Administrator

By James Windell

South Haven resident Brian Dissette, who has been Berrien County Administrator since July, 2020, will become Ottawa County Deputy Administrator on February 2, 2026.

Although he says he had wonderful experience working for the past six years in Berrien County, he has long eyed the possibility of working for Ottawa County.

"Ottawa County was always on my map as being a potential next step for me," Brian said in a recent interview. "The county is well known for high quality programming and for very innovative processes."

Dissette will take a wealth of management and administrative experience to Ottawa County. He has a master's degree in public administration from the School of Public Affairs at Western Michigan University and was Assistant City Manager in South Haven before becoming the City Manager in 2008.

"Being City Manager was absolutely a wonderful time and a wonderful job," he says.

During his 12 years as South Haven's City Manager, he oversaw public works improvements, infrastructure upgrades, long-term capital planning and coordination with state and federal agencies for funding. Since City Managers rarely stay in one city that long indicates that the City was satisfied with his performance and that he inspired trust while being effective in his position. He left his city manager position to take the job as Administrator for Berrien County.

"We are thrilled to have Brian join the Ottawa County Team," said Ottawa County Administrator Patrick Waterman. "He brings nearly 24 years of local government experience that will serve the residents well."

Dissette said that he was very familiar with the campus in West Olive in Ottawa County where his new office will be located. "The bulk of my time at that campus has been mountain biking," Dissette said, "Because at their site they have the Pigeon Creek trails. My kids have grown up biking that course. They were active in a bike club in 2019 and 2020, so we would go each week to the biking area near Pigeon Creek. Now that will be right outside my office."

Dissette is married to Kelly Getman-Dissette, who is the Zoning Administrator for South Haven. They have three children.

He has been active in the community by serving as trustee for Lake Michigan College and as a volunteer member of the South Haven Area Recreation Authority.

"Once I get situated in Ottawa County, I'll have to determine what commitments I can keep," he said. "I'll have to figure out what my work schedule will be and if I can continue my volunteer commitments."

PUBLIC NOTICE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Village of Mattawan will be holding a special meeting of the Village Council to discuss the 2026-2027 Mattawan Police Department Special Assessment Millage on Friday, January 23, 2026 at 4:30 PM. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at Village Hall, 24221 Front Ave. Call the Village Office at 269-668-2128 with any questions.

VILLAGE HALL
24221 FRONT AVENUE
MATTAWAN, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128

Jolie Storm-Artis
Village Clerk
January 13, 2025

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW COUNCIL
TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **The Village of Paw Paw Village Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Paw Paw District Library, located at 609 West Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw, MI 49079..**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing include, in brief, the following:**

1. Updates to the Village Floodplain Ordinance to reflect recent changes to the FEMA flood insurance maps.

Public comment will be taken at the hearing or written comment may be provided to the Village Offices prior to the meeting. Additional information regarding this meeting is available at the Paw Paw Village Hall, 111 East Michigan Avenue between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by sending a written request to PO Box 179, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the Village Clerk no later than five business days prior to the meeting to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations.

Karla Tacy
Village of Paw Paw Clerk

Notice of Public Hearing
For Warner Vineyard's facility improvements

The Village of Paw Paw Planning commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7 p.m. at its regular meeting location at Paw Paw Township Hall, located at 114 N. Gremps Street, Paw Paw MI 49079.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on a development proposal for two parcels of property at 706 S. Kalamazoo Street, including the installation of new structures and the relocation of existing structures. Plans are available for review from the Village of Paw Paw community development department.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above-listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting contact Village Clerk Karla Tacy at k.tacy@pawpaw.net or (269) 657-3148 no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Alternatively, comments can be mailed to Village Clerk, 111 E Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw MI 49079.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk, at leat two business days before the meeting in writing at 111 E. Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw MI 49079, or by telephone at (269) 657-3148.

Bryan Myrkle
Village Manager
Village of Paw Paw

Notice of Public Hearing
For Culver's Restaurant Development Site Plan

The Village of Paw Paw Planning commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7 p.m. at its regular meeting location at Paw Paw Township Hall, located at 114 N. Gremps Street, Paw Paw MI 49079.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on a development proposal for a 3.24 acre parcel along County Road 665, Parcel No. 80-47-600-004-60. No street number has been assigned to this parcel yet, but it is generally located between the Sunoco service station and the Lions Club. The project is proposed to be the development of a Culver's fast food restaurant with drive through. Plans are available for review from the Village of Paw Paw community development department.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above-listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting contact Village Clerk Karla Tacy at k.tacy@pawpaw.net or (269) 657-3148 no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Alternatively, comments can be mailed to Village Clerk, 111 E Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw MI 49079.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk, at leat two business days before the meeting in writing at 111 E. Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 179, Paw Paw MI 49079, or by telephone at (269) 657-3148.

Bryan Myrkle
Village Manager
Village of Paw Paw

Paw Paw basketball team defeats Three Rivers

Truman Brennan had 19 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals for Paw Paw.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw boys basketball team came out of the break with a 71-30 over Three Rivers/

Paw Paw had quarter leads of 16-8, 31-19 and 54-28.

Stats leaders were:

Caden Bowen - 22 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 7 steals, 1 Block.

Truman Brennan - 19 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals.

Ryan Holmes - 8 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assist, 1 steal.

Antonio Rivas - 8 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals.

Kaelin Tate - 4 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steals.

After a busy holiday season that saw the Red Wolves go down to Indiana and play the defending 3A State Champions as well as three games up in Grand Rapids at Cornerstone University for a holiday tournament against Grand Rapids Christian, Forest Hills Northern, and South Christian going 2-2 over that stretch, the Red Wolves returned home for only the second time this season.

It was back to Wolverine Conference action where the Red Wolves are tied for first in the conference with a 3-1 record coming into Friday's contest against Three Rivers.

"The game started very much in the up and down pace that the Red Wolves like to play, but was unexpectedly sloppy with the Red Wolves having had 10 days between games," Beery said. "The hungry Three Rivers Wildcats were able to stay within striking distance in the first half as the Red Wolves were 9 of 20 from two point range and 2 of 12 from three. The second half started fast. "The Red Wolves created havoc by being able to trap the Wildcats all over the floor. This led to many errant passes that the Red Wolves were able to poach and take to their end for easy baskets. The benches were emptied early in the fourth quarter. The Red Wolves bench dominated in the fourth quarter outscoring their opponent 17-2. All 14 Red Wolves entered the game and 10 of them scored. It was an-around good team performance to start off post break action."

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Red Wolves travel down to Vicksburg to take on another Wolverine Conference opponent. The Red Wolves currently sit at 6-4 on the season and 4-1 in conference play. Paw Paw is home Jan. 16 with Otsego.

Gobles boys basketball team is 9-0

Carter Crippin had 21 points and four assists for Gobles

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Coach John Curtis' Gobles basketball team improved to 9-0 on Jan. 12 with a 48-27 win over Marcellus.

Last week on Tuesday, Gobles edged Lawton 45-43 and then played Galesburg on Friday and won 58-46.

Leading Gobles were Carter Crippin with 21 points and four assists, Aiden Beam with 14 points Aden Newberry with 11 points and 11 rebounds and Jayden Otis with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Gobles will play at Saugatuck on Jan. 16, at Coloma on Jan. 20, at Hopkins on Jan. 21 and at Martin on Jan. 23.

Lawton has a 3-6 record but almost handed Gobles its first loss of the season.

Lawton beat White Pigeon 64-35 on Dec. 17 but since then has lost 74-50 to Kalamazoo Hacket Prep, 57-43 to Fennville, 45-43 to Gobles and 58-49 to Parchment.

Lawton was set to play at Coloma on Jan. 13 and home with Kalamazoo Christian on Jan. 16, with Climax Scotts on Jan. 19 and with Schoolcraft on Jan. 23.

Jaimes led the way for South Haven soccer

Alex Jaimes was South Haven's goalkeeper during a run to the state finals.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven will fondly remember the exploits for a long time of goalkeeper Alex Jaimes who helped the team be state runners-up last fall.

He was a four-year keeper.

His team beat an undefeated Fremont 2-1 squad in a dramatic state semifinal win in Cedar Springs.

"They were pretty good," Jaimes said of Fremont, adding the key behind his own team's success was "motivation and good play."

Jaimes recalls someone suggested he play keeper and he's glad he was put there. His success as a keeper was "my reaction time, and my will power."

James said his best game was the regional finals or district semifinals.

Going into the title game "we have to keep the momentum and go the whole 80 minutes," he said.

South Haven lost 4-1 to Detroit Country Day in the title game but still enjoyed a 18-5-4 championship season.

Soccer was his only sport.

"I grew up with it," he said.

Bangor girls overwhelm Hartford

By John Raffel

Bangor's girls basketball team was too much for Hartford on Jan. 9 and scored a 39-18 victory.

Izzy Horvath had eight points for Bangor while Amiya Corona had seven points and Madison Lennox had six.

Corona also had nine rebounds while Solexy Calderon had five. Lennox had five rebounds and six steals

Izzy Horvath had five assists.

On Jan. 7, Bangor scored a 49-10 win over Coldwater Pansophia Academy.

Aleix Wiśniewski had 10 points. Aliyah Lee had eight points. Caldera had 11 rebounds while Azariah Jackson had six. Horvath had three steals. Alexis Wisniewski and Belle Macedo had two assists apiece.

Bangor is 4-4 overall and was set to be at Centreville on Jan. 13

Bangor cheerleaders enjoying success

By John Raffel
Correspondent

On Jan. 8, Bangor Varsity Competitive Cheer took 6th place out of 11 teams in Division 4 at their first SAC meet of the season with a total score of 502.78.

"We are looking forward to the rest of the season and working to improve our scores said coach Brittany Marbut.

Members of the team: Freshmen: Emmah Farley Glaze; Gracie Mortenson, Serenity Preston, Livi Heimsath.

Sophomores Oriana Wellington, Kazimera Davis, Jadalyn Bowen, Kelsee Roberts and Destiny McNealy

Junior Emmaleigh Kish.

Round one is jumps, motions, precision, and voice projection. Round two is skills and technical ability. Round three is stunts, pyramids and tumbling.mhsaa

Bangor wrestlers 4-0

Bangor wrestlers were 3-2 in the All-City Tournament on Jan. 10.

Bangor lost to 58-23 Battle Creek Harper Creek and 51-30 to Bangor. Bangor beat Benton Harbor 72-0, Comstock 60-16 and Watervliet 69-0.

Winners for Bangor over Bentor Harbor were: Maria Marlin Hernandez, Isabel Marin-Hernandez, Wyatt Schneider, Talon Abbott, Tobias Rodriguez

Paw Paw wrestlers are fourth

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw wrestling team took to Olivet for the John Burton boys and girls tournament on Saturday. After a grueling 10-hour tournament the boys team ended up taking fourth place out of 20 teams with 141 points.

The girls team walked away in ninth place out of 30 teams with 69.5 points. Athletes that placed at the tournament were:

Kholby Armijo 4-0, champion in the 165-pound bracket.

He pinned Carson Endsley of Bellevue in 1:21, Cody Pollock of Lawton in 2:35, and Carter Swinehart of Schoolcraft in 41 seconds.

Gunner Gale, 3-1, second place at 190 pounds. He pinned Trenton Daily of Schoolcraft in 2:34, he pinned Preston Hochstedler of Quincy in 1:10, and he beat Ron Jones 16-0 with a technical fall. In the finals, Gales lost 19-18 to Derious Robinson of Middleville Thornapple Kellogg.

Kameron Armijo, 4-1, third place.

Carter Thompson, 4-1, third place at 150 pounds. He beat Luke Waller. He pinned Marco Garcia in 1:21 and then lost to Van Wirttz on a pin in 1:21. He pinned Joey Abbeg of Quincy in 49 seconds and Levi Chapin of Thornapple-Kellogg in 2:10/

Aaron Quiles, 3-2, fourth place.

Sophia Fonseca, 3-2, fourth place.

Brookelynn Mosier, 3-2, fourth place.

South Haven girl scores 41 points

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Ly'Nique Cunningham scored 41 points for South Haven at home on Jan. 6 in a 51-47 loss to Climax-Scotts.

The Rams had a tough night shooting from the field as a team and made it close, but fell just short.

On Jan. 8 at Bridgman, the Rams still struggled from the outside, but managed to hold the Bees to 18 points in a 39-18 win on the road. Cunningham had 20 points. Olivia Weaver five points and Brennen Fields and Reagan Hahn each added four points.

On Monday Jan. 12, South Haven had a good road win at Buchanan 49-41. Seven Rams scored in the win. Ly'Nique Cunningham had 29 points. Charlotte Grzybowski had six points and Olivia Weaver five points.

South Haven plays at Allegan on Jan. 16, at Saugatuck on Jan. 20 and at Watervliet on Jan. 23.

Local girls ski team wins

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — On a very warm Wednesday night, Jan. 7l coach Jennifer Roethlisberger's Mattawan/Paw Paw Ski Team competed in their first conference race at Timber Ridge.

At the end of the evening, the girl's team finished in 1st place in Slalom and 2nd Place in Giant Slalom which was enough for them to win the evening with a total of 39 points and claiming victory over Hackett/Vicksburg, Portage, Hudsonville, and Kalamazoo United.

Individual Top 10 Performances for the girls included:

Giant Slalom: Anna Hoogerheide (Mattawan) - 1st place; Tessa Brown (Mattawan) - 4th Place; Julie Navratilova - 8th Place

Slalom: Anna Hoogerheide (Mattawan) - 1st Place, Avery Huff (Paw Paw) - 3rd Place, Jilie Navratilova (Mattawan) - Tied for 5th Place; Tessa Brown (Mattawan) - Tied for 5th Place.

The boys team tied for first place in slalom and came in second place in giant Sslalom which had them finish the night in second place by only one point to Kalamazoo United.

"This season will be a close match week by week between these two conference rivals," Roethlisberger.

Individual Top 10 Performances for the boys included:

Slalom: JT Roethlisberger (Mattawan) - 3rd Place; Everett Allen (Mattawan) - 5th Place; Mason Allen (Paw Paw) - 6th Place' Noah Bentz (Mattawan) - 9th Place

Giant Slalom: JT Roethlisberger (Mattawan) - 4th Place; Mason Allen (Paw Paw) - 5th Place; Everett Allen (Mattawan) - 7th Place; Caleb Terpstra (Mattawan) - 9th Place.

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VIEWPOINT

It's 2026. Why Is the IRS Still Stuck in the Past?

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

Not long ago, I set aside part of my workday to ask the Internal Revenue Service a simple question. This wasn't a complicated audit issue or a dispute over taxes owed. It was a basic inquiry that should have taken only a few minutes to answer.

Instead, I spent nearly an hour and a half on hold.

Anyone who has dealt with the IRS knows that long wait times are almost expected at this point. While frustrating, that alone might be understandable given the size of the agency and the volume of calls it receives. What followed, however, was harder to excuse.

After finally reaching a representative, I was informed that any official correspondence related to my question would need to be handled by fax or through the mail.

Fax. Or mail.

In 2026.

This is the same agency that requires most Americans to file their taxes electronically, encourages online payments, and enforces strict deadlines with penalties and interest when those deadlines are missed. Yet when taxpayers need answers or clarification, they are pushed into outdated communication methods that slow the process to a crawl.

This is not simply a matter of inconvenience. It's a question of efficiency, accessibility, and respect for taxpayers' time. Virtually every sector of modern life—banks, hospitals, schools, insurance companies, and local governments—has adopted secure email systems. Many handle sensitive financial and personal information every day without issue. The technology exists. The standards exist. The IRS's refusal or inability to adopt them is increasingly indefensible.

The consequences are real. Hours wasted listening to hold music. Weeks lost waiting for mailed responses. Paper documents that can be delayed, misrouted, or lost altogether. For small business owners trying to stay compliant, seniors navigating fixed incomes, and families already stretched thin, this system adds unnecessary stress and confusion.

Taxpayers are frequently reminded that "ignorance is no excuse" when it comes to tax law. The IRS expects accuracy, timeliness, and full compliance. That expectation should run both ways. If Americans are required to operate in a digital environment, the agency overseeing the tax system should be required to meet them there.

The IRS often points to staffing shortages and funding challenges, and those concerns may be valid. But modernization is not a luxury—it's a necessity. In fact, better communication tools would likely reduce call volumes, improve response times, and save money over the long term.

No one is asking for tax audits by text message or answers delivered via social media. What taxpayers are asking for is basic, secure email communication—something that has been standard practice for years.

If the IRS truly wants to improve customer service and efficiency, there is a clear place to start: reduce hold times, modernize communication, and stop telling Americans to dust off fax machines in the digital age.

Because nothing undermines confidence in government quite like an agency that demands modern compliance while clinging stubbornly to the past.

South Haven Speakers Series names new board members, series dates and topics

Dr. Janice Brown

Dave Flack

Kalamazoo Promise architect Dr. Janice Brown and South Haven city council member Dave Flack have joined the Board of the South Haven Speakers Series.

Brown is a former Kalamazoo superintendent of schools and considered the architect of the nationally recognized Kalamazoo Promise which is a generous, community-supported foundation that provides up to 100 percent college tuition and expenses for graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools. Dr. Brown continues to serve as chair of the Promise and is sought after across the country to share the story of its success — a model now being replicated in communities nationwide.

Ward 3 city council member Flack is a retired Ford Motor Company professional. He and his wife moved to South Haven in 2023. In addition to serving on City Council, he is a member of the Harbor Commission and is active in several community organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University and an MBA from Western Michigan University.

Elaine Stephens has been elected to a second term as president of the Speakers Series. Joan Bauer will be Vice President, Dave Murphey Treasurer and Jim Windell Secretary. Series founder Bob Copping is Chairman.

Other members of the board include Dick Brunvand, Angelica Gallegos-Dickerson, and Janice Varney.

The 2026 season opens Thursday, April 30 with a former ambassador discussing the importance of Ukraine and Eastern Europe. It will be followed on May 14 with an astronomer describing how bright lights endanger starry nights and our environment.

The fall series continues Thursday, October 22 with an award-winning professor exploring the promises and perils of artificial intelligence. The season concludes on Thursday, November 19. This evening's topic explores the art of getting along in a deeply divided and troubled society by a best-selling writer and journalist.

All presentations are held on the South Haven Campus of Lake Michigan College. Refreshments are available at 6:30 pm followed by the speaker at 7 p.m. Admission is $10, and students attend free of charge.

The South Haven Speakers Series is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Approximately three-quarters of the Series budget comes from generous donors. Further information can be found at the Series website - southhavenspeakersseries.org.

Sheriff's Report– VBC Sheriff's Office handles more than 10,000 calls during 2025

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled 700 calls in December, ending the year at 10,088. They had 356 traffic stops in December, ending the year at 4,663. Dispatchers overall call for service in December was 4,994. Overall calls they dispatched out for service ended the year at 65,941. "Those calls were for law enforcement, EMS, traffic stops, animal control, fire departments, wreckers, misc. A fun fact about the busiest time for dispatchers answering the phone is between 12 p.m. to - 6 p.m. They average a phone call every 3.9 minutes. The slowest phone answering time is 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. in which they average answering a phone every 15 minutes," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Our Honor Guard participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony put on by South Haven Police Department. South Haven Police Department honored Officer Michael McAllister on the 50th anniversary of his Line of Duty Death. It was truly an honor to have our office be a part of the ceremony," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response assisted Lawton Police Department with a domestic violence call in which the suspect barricaded himself in the house. The subject was eventually taken into custody and lodged for the incident.

A deputy on patrol in Geneva Township stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. It was discovered that the driver had warrants for his arrest. While he was being placed into custody, he attempted to flee on foot. The deputy quickly apprehended the suspect. "It should be noted that he threw a baggie of methamphetamine on the ground while attempting to outrun the deputy. He now faces more charges than just the two warrants," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an unwanted individual at a residence in the Village of Lawrence. "The suspect was removed from the residence and trespassed from the location," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a 911 hangup call in the City of Bangor. Deputies responded to the location, and it was found that two intoxicated individuals were arguing over a phone.

Uniform Response handled an ongoing threats complaint in Almena Township. "With all the information that is now gathered, it was sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response recovered a stolen trailer out of Berrien County from an attempted sale of it off Marketplace. "Deputies went with the victim to meet the seller in Paw Paw Township at a gas station. It was confirmed that it was the stolen trailer. The trailer was turned over to the victim, and an investigation was carried out into how the suspect came into possession of it. Due to some of the information obtained, the report is going to be sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

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British TikTok duo visits South Haven, Saugatuck

Jason Riley, local celebrity Gregory Muncie, and Josh Cauldwell-Clarke in downtown Saugatuck. Photo from Gregory Muncie on Facebook.

Josh Cauldwell-Clarke and Jason Riley pose in front of South Haven's Historic Lighthouse.

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

The United States often fascinates those from other countries. From food, sports, and politics to nearly everything in between, American life can feel markedly different from the typical European experience.

One of its greatest marvels is the Great Lakes. Their sheer size, with waves that rival the ocean, shipwrecks hidden beneath the surface, and weather patterns they help create, leaves many visitors stunned. Ever since a viewer first mentioned the lakes, that exact question has puzzled Josh Cauldwell-Clarke and Jason Riley, a popular British TikTok and social media duo.

Better known by their online monikers — Josh from England, The Accent Guy, or simply Josh & Jase — the pair have amassed a combined following of nearly 10 million by sharing their reactions to American culture, food, and destinations. Both live in Nottingham, England, but in recent years have been traveling throughout the United States to experience the country firsthand.

In 2025, the duo was named official "Louisiana Ambassadors" by Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser. While searching for the best Texas barbecue, they also sat down with the Texas Standard to explain how their fascination with America began in 2021.

"It all started from trying one Twinkie in my bedroom. That's how it started. I tried a Twinkie, and I went, 'This is incredible! What else is there to discover?' And then I said, 'Hello, America.' Then here we are," recounted Cauldwell-Clarke. "Then we came to America and discovered that America is this enigma … like this place I've never even … thought like this crazy, this big … America is insane. I love it."

Riley said most of their activities are fan suggestions. "We like people reaching out to us with recommendations rather than us Googling what the most popular things to do is because sometimes you find a hidden gem that the Internet doesn't tell you about," he said.

On Saturday, January 10th, a post on the Josh & Jase account announced they had once again landed in the United States. Later that day, the duo revealed they were in Michigan, joking about the weather and announcing South Haven as their first stop while asking followers for suggestions.

On January 11th, they shared content from Six Chicks Scratch Kitchen, Clementines, Lake Michigan, and the lighthouse. Local social media groups quickly filled with photos of and questions about the British visitors, a surge of interest that, at the time of writing, has yet to subside.

On January 12th, Josh & Jase posted a video announcing their next Michigan stop, panning to the sign at Lake Street and Blue Star Highway in Saugatuck. Afterwards, Cauldwell-Clarke said they're in "Saow-gay-tuck." Riley corrected him, and the video ended with a request for pronunciation help.

Later that day, the duo shared videos of visits to the Saugatuck Yacht Club and downtown Saugatuck, shopping at the Brass Anchor, climbing Mount Baldhead, and dining at Wally's.

Josh & Jase are now continuing on to additional Michigan destinations that have not yet been revealed. They can be found across social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

Edye and Mike return to South Haven

By James Windell

A popular act at the South Haven Jazz Festival for the past several years, Edye Evans Hyde and Mike Hyde return to perform at the First Congregational Church on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

The vocal and guitar duo will be doing a concert that cuts across genres.

"It will be our normal repertoire which includes some jazz standards, Latin tunes and classic pop," says singer Edye Evans Hyde in a recent interview. Like their performance, their interview featured both Edye and her husband of nearly 47 years Mike. They played off of each other in talking about their music and their background. "We're very eclectic," added Mike.

"I think a lot of it is that we are kind of known as a jazz duo," explains Edye, "but we do other things from different genres."

And Mike finishes that thought: "Lately, I believe people have come to know us as performers; it's not about our genre."

Both Edye and Mike grew up in Western Michigan, and both started out as classical musicians. Edye grew up in a household in which her father listened to a lot of jazz. "So, I was influenced by Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday," Edye says.

For Mike, his exposure to jazz happened in high school when he began listening to jazz guitarists like Wes Montgomery and Jim Hall. "Later, I listened to Larry Carlton and Robben Ford, who are more like fusion kind of guys. But the music I enjoy now is quite a bit different than what I used to listen to and that's because of our duo format."

Mike's tasty guitar playing behind Edye's vocals has been described as warm, smooth and the perfect accompaniment to Edye's silky solos.

Edye says that while she was influenced early in her career by Ella and Sarah, as she got older she began to appreciate Dee Dee Bridgewater. "I love that Dee Dee has a pop sensibility as well as a jazz feel," she says. "Ann Hampton Callaway is one of my favorite people right now, however, I have listened to how every singer presents the music."

Edye and Mike have taken their music all over the world, from Italy to China, and have helped shape the talents of young musicians through their work as educators. "Being an artist is the best way we bring people together," says Edye. "It provides a bit of time for us all to have a shared experience."

Edye and Mike perform at 3:00 on Sunday, January 18, 2026, as part of the Winter Concert Series at First Congregational UCC, 651 Phoenix Street, South Haven. Tickets are $20 at the door and children 12 and under are free. For more information, call Diane and Lisa at (269) 637-3804 (opt. 5).

Area Church Services

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Dan Phillips
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

••••

FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddy-turner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"

••••

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays in person or online at - www.pawpawpres.com or www.youtube.com/@1st-prespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

••••

PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV
Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

••••

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Fr. Dave Pinto
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpaw-paw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday: Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/ Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514
(269) 993-6727

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

••••

HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country
Since 1894
SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call:
Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837
or
Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur • (269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com
or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.••••

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312 • www.stjbparish.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

DTE SMIA Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

St. Julian winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

Adams Funeral Home and Cremation Services
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, **CARL JEAN HARRIS** (date of birth) December 18,1933 (12/18/33), who lived at 30172 62nd Ave, Lawton, Michigan, died September 27,2025 (9/27/25).
There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Latters of Administration have been issued.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Harris Revocable Living Trust dated, June 19,2018, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Karen Vettese, or Theresa Skapnit Co-Successor Trustees, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
January 4th, 2026
(1/4/2026)
Co-Successors
Theresa Skapnit
7871 W. B Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
616-283-4745
or
Karen Vettese
37029 Octavia Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-454-1219

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case 2025-1173-*DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of **Cheryl Leigh Grimes, died July 15,2025 (7/15/2025)**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Tonya L. Bird,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw St. Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative withing 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 8, 2026
Attorney:
Todd Redmond #P51347
480 W. Lovell,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-381-9070
Personal Representative:
Tonya L. Bird
824 Denway Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-207-3836

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Logan Phillips; Atty: PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY - PUBLIC NOTICE AGENCY; 1st Pub: 1/15/2026; Atty File #: 25-017305; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM on February 12, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Logan Phillips, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc., a Michigan Corporation Date of mortgage: April 12, 2019, Recorded on April 19, 2019, Book # 1683, on Page # 91. Foreclosing Assignee: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Three 88/100 Dollars ($107,963.88) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Decatur, County of Van Buren: LOT 6, BLOCK 2, DOUGLAS LEE ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 19, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 455 Douglas Dr Decatur MI 49045 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Assignee ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 25-017305
(01-15)(02-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Helen Burton; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 1/15/2026; Atty File #: 527692F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Helen L. Burton and Eddie J. Burton, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Date of Mortgage: May 4, 2022 Date of Mortgage Recording: May 9, 2022 Amount claimed due on date of notice: $191,261.14 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Arlington, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on the West 1/4 post of Section 18, Town 2 South, Range 15 West, Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence South on the West line of said Section, 589.60 feet; thence East at right angles, 515.00 feet; thence North 589.60 feet; thence West 515.00 feet to the place beginning.
Except Beginning at the West 1/4 post of Section 18, Town 2 South, Range 15 West, Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds West on the West section line, 208.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 26 minutes 59 seconds East, parallel with the East and West 1/4 line, 515.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds East 208.00 feet to the East and West 1/4 line; thence North 89 degrees 26 minutes 59 seconds West on same, 515.00 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 34315 County Road 681, Bangor, MI 49013-9776
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 15, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1581941
(01-15)(02-05)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gary Phelps; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 1/8/2026; Atty File #: 25MI00753-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Gary Phelps, Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 23, 2018, and recorded on August 7, 2018, in Liber 1672, Page 248, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 10, 2023 and recorded October 13, 2023 in Liber 1758, Page 164, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-One Thousand One Hundred Sixteen and 21/100 ($81,116.21) including interest at the rate of 5.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Village of Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel Number 1: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the land formerly owned by Lucius M. Hodges, said point being 1215 feet North of the West Quarter post of Section 10, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, thence North 4 rods, thence East 12 rods, thence South 4 rods, thence West along the line of the land formerly owned by said Lucius M. Hodges to the place of beginning. Parcel Number 2: Commencing 69 rods 10 links North of the West Quarter post of Section 10, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, thence North 4 rods, thence East 12 rods, thence South 4 rods, thence West 12 rods to beginning. Commonly known as: 720 N PAW PAW ST, LAWRENCE, MI 49064 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 8, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00753-1
(01-08)(01-29)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Max Swank; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 1/1/2026; Atty File #: 524710F02; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Max Swank, a married man and Alexandria Swank, his wife via Loan Modification dated April 12, 2024 Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns Foreclosing Assignee (if any): MidFirst Bank Date of Mortgage: May 14, 2020 Date of Mortgage Recording: May 21, 2020 Amount claimed due on date of notice: $143,640.67 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the East half of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 17, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, lying Southerly of the centerline of the Red Arrow Highway, except beginning at the intersection of the centerline of said Red Arrow Highway and the West line of the East half of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 17, thence Southerly on said line 200 feet, thence East 210 feet, thence North to the center of said road, thence Southwesterly along said centerline to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 66599 Red Arrow Hwy, Hartford, MI 49057-9725
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 1, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1581164
(01-01)(01-22)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC v. Travis Schuster; Atty: Trott Law P.C. - Trott Law P.C.; 1st Pub: 12/18/2025; Atty File #: 504518L03; Insurer: (unknown)
Van Buren County Circuit Court Case No. 25-074638-CH
NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE
The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, on the 5th of February, 2026 at 1:00 pm, local time.
On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: real property situated in the Township of Porter, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and is particularly described as: That part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, described as Beginning at a point on the North and South 1/4 line of said Section, which is South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East, 600.00 feet from the center of said Section 8, said beginning point being North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West, 2034.10 feet from the South 1/4 post of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds East along said 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds West parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds West parallel with said North and South 1/4 line, 375.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 52 minutes 57 seconds East parallel with said East and West 1/4 line, 550.00 feet to the point of beginning Tax Parcel ID: 80-16-008-014-10 More commonly known as: 78560 M 40 Lawton, MI 49065 This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of Notice: 12/18/2025 Trott Law, P.C.
1580064
(12-18)(01-22)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: John A. Gropp; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 12/25/2025; Atty File #: 25-015501; Insurer: FHLMC
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 22, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made

Continues on page 9

2026 VAN BUREN COUNTY TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION RATIOS AND MULTIPLIERS

ASSESSING UNIT / TOWNSHIPS	REAL PROPERTY BY CLASSIFICATION								PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	AGRICULTURAL		COMMERCIAL		INDUSTRIAL		RESIDENTIAL			
	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier
ALMENA TOWNSHIP	50.58	0.98853	45.12	1.10816	52.48	0.95274	46.84	1.06746	50.00	1.0000
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP	49.25	1.01523	45.61	1.09625	48.43	1.03242	47.58	1.05086	50.00	1.0000
ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP	45.85	1.09051	45.37	1.10205	47.16	1.06022	46.68	1.07112	50.00	1.0000
BANGOR TOWNSHIP	47.46	1.05352	42.79	1.16850	49.25	1.01523	43.36	1.15314	50.00	1.0000
BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP	43.11	1.15982	45.68	1.09457	49.03	1.01978	44.18	1.13173	50.00	1.0000
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP	49.31	1.01399	46.18	1.08272	49.21	1.01605	46.68	1.07112	50.00	1.0000
COVERT TOWNSHIP	41.37	1.20861	39.30	1.27226	50.02	0.99960	59.44	0.84118	50.00	1.0000
DECATUR TOWNSHIP	47.02	1.06338	45.47	1.09963	45.44	1.10035	45.91	1.08909	50.00	1.0000
GENEVA TOWNSHIP	47.32	1.05664	42.85	1.16686	44.91	1.11334	43.47	1.15022	50.00	1.0000
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP	48.45	1.03199	46.15	1.08342	50.56	0.98892	50.70	0.98619	50.00	1.0000
HARTFORD TOWNSHIP	47.77	1.04668	46.54	1.07434	48.50	1.03093	49.56	1.00888	50.00	1.0000
KEELER TOWNSHIP	48.05	1.04058	45.65	1.09529	48.81	1.02438	47.72	1.04778	50.00	1.0000
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP	45.71	1.09385	49.88	1.00241	46.98	1.06428	48.54	1.03008	50.00	1.0000
PAW PAW TOWNSHIP	46.49	1.07550	45.76	1.09266	49.52	1.00969	48.07	1.04015	50.00	1.0000
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP	46.50	1.07527	47.03	1.06315	48.71	1.02648	45.97	1.08767	50.00	1.0000
PORTER TOWNSHIP	48.15	1.03842	44.27	1.12943	50.08	0.99840	50.28	0.99443	50.00	1.0000
SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP	45.39	1.10156	48.63	1.02817	45.22	1.10571	50.28	0.99443	50.00	1.0000
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP	49.49	1.01031	41.90	1.19332	N/C		47.68	1.04866	50.00	1.0000
CITIES										
CITY OF GOBLES	48.66	1.02754	48.10	1.03950	N/C		46.48	1.07573	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF HARTFORD	N/C		48.61	1.02859	45.58	1.09697	44.71	1.11832	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN	N/C		37.84	1.32135	51.14	0.97771	47.92	1.04341	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF BANGOR	N/C		45.11	1.10840	49.11	1.01812	44.92	1.11309	50.00	1.0000

N/C: *NO PARCELS IN CLASSIFICATION*

IN COMPLIANCE WITH SEC.211.34A OF THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX LAW OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, FOLLOWING ARE THE TENTATIVE RATIO AND TENTATIVE MULTIPLIERS TO BE APPLIED TO THE ASSESSED VALUES OF EACH CLASS OF PROPERTY IN EACH UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN VAN BUREN COUNTY TO ACHIEVE COUNTY EQUALIZED VALUES FOR 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE
VILLAGE OF LAWTON
PLANNING COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, Planning Commission for the Village of Lawton will hold a public hearing on Tuesday February 3, 2026, during a regular meeting of the Planning Commission commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, located in the Village of Lawton at 125 S Main St., Lawton, MI 49065.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on a Special Use Permit Application filed by Pin High Golf Course 1020 N Main St. Lawton, MI 49065 (PPN 80-45-700-029-01). Estimated size of the property is 53.59 acres. Applicant, Pin High Golf Course, filed this permit in order to consider alcohol sales to be allowed on premises, at the proposed club house to be built on the property, which is considered zoned Central Business District (CBD).

Copies of the Special Use Permit Application may be reviewed at the Village of Lawton Village Hall during its normal hours of operation. Written and verbal comments will be reviewed at the public hearing, and written comments may be submitted any time prior to the public hearing by sending comments to Village of Lawton Zoning Administrator Todd Hackenberg at P.O. Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065. All comments received will be made part of the hearing records.

Location: 125 S Main St., Lawton, MI 49065 (Village Hall)
Hours of operation: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Contact information: (269) 624-6407 or brathbun@lawtonmi.org

Written comments may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to a personal appearance. Written comments must be received no later than 12 p.m. (noon) on February 2, 2026. Written comments should be addressed to the Planning Commission and must be submitted to the Village Clerk via email at brathbun@lawtonmi.org or sent to the following address:
Village of Lawton
Attn: Planning Commission
125 S Main St
P.O. Box 367
Lawton, MI 49065

Individuals requesting reasonable accommodation for impairments or disabilities should contact the Village Clerk no later than five days prior to the public hearing.

Brittany Rathbun, Village Clerk

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page 8

by John A. Gropp, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., Mortgagee, dated January 29, 2021 and recorded February 8, 2021 in Liber 1713, Page 540 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by PHH Asset Services LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Five and 72/100 Dollars ($64,805.72). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 22, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Bangor, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 29, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST. ALSO THE SOUTH 90 FEET OF THE WEST 300 FEET OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION.
41557 68th St, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: December 25, 2025
File No. 25-015501
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(12-25)(01-15)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arlington Township Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public meeting to review an application for a zoning variance. The subject parcel is 80-03-180-009-10. The address is 47368 Woodland Drive, Bangor, MI 49013.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Arlington Township Hall, 55022 34th Avenue, Bangor, MI 49013.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact the Clerk by Friday, January 23, 2026.

Susan Wilson, Arlington Township Clerk
Clerk@arlingtontownship.com

2026 Regular Meeting Schedule
Paw Paw Village Council

All meetings will be held at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 W. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw MI 49079 and will commence at 7:00p.m. unless otherwise published. All meetings shall be held in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976

January 12, 2026
January 26, 2026

February 9, 2026
February 23, 2026

March 9, 2026
March 23, 2026

April 13, 2026
April 27, 2026

May 11, 2026
May 26, 2026
(Tuesday Due to Memorial Day)

June 8, 2026
June 22, 2026

July 13, 2026
July 27, 2026

August 10, 2026
August 24, 2026

September 14, 2026
September 28, 20256

October 12, 2026
October 26, 2026

November 9, 2026
November 23, 2026

December 14, 2026

The Village of Paw Paw will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Village. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Village Clerk.

A period for public comment will be available at each meeting or written comment may be provided to the Village Offices prior to the meeting. Additional information is available at the Paw Paw Village Hall, 111 E. Michigan Ave between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by sending a written request to PO Box 179, Paw Paw, MI 49079 or by calling 269-657-3148.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF LAWTON
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Ordinance No. 06-2025)

At a regular meeting of the Village Council for the Village of Lawton held at 125 S. Main St on November 11, 2025 and commencing at 7:00p.m., the following ordinance was offered for adoption by Council member E. Dudek and was seconded by Council member Raber:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP FOR VILLAGE OF LAWTON AS ADOPTED BY ARTICLE 4 SECTION 4.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON BY REZONING THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1020 N MAIN STREET.

THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON (the "Village") ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of the Zoning Map. The zoning map as adopted by Article 4 Section 4.04 of the Zoning Ordinance for the Village of Lawton is hereby amended as follows to rezone property commonly known as 1020 N Main St. Lawton, MI 49065 (PPN 80-45-700-029-01) from LDR (Low Density Residential) to GBD (General Business District). The remainder of the zoning map

Section 2. Public Interest. Consistent with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Village Council finds that the rezoning of the property in Section 1 is consistent with the Village of Lawton Master Plan because it will better facilitate the use of the property as a recreational facility; is compatible with existing land uses in the vicinity of the property; is considerate of the character of the zoning district and the suitability for specific uses; and will promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Village.

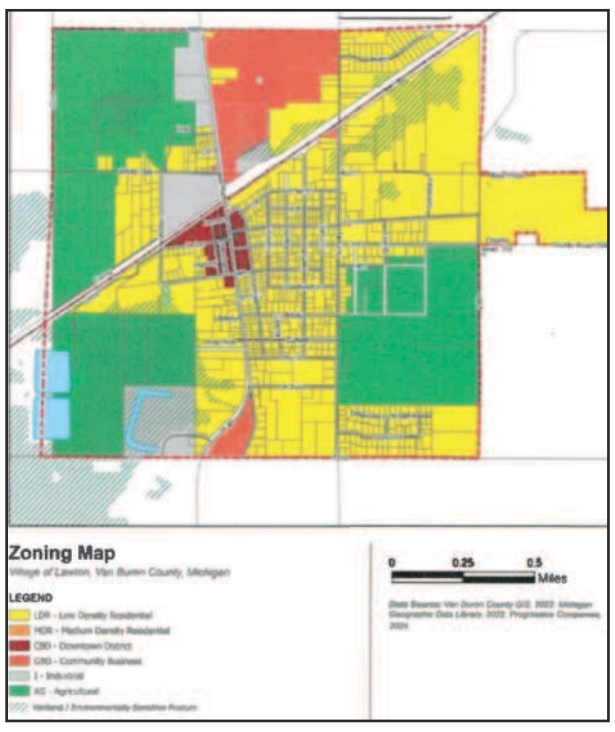
Section 3. Repealer. Any other ordinances or portions of any other ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 4. Savings Clause. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any part of this Ordinance is declared void or inoperable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration does not void any or render inoperable any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date. The Village Clerk shall cause a notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published. Except as otherwise provided by law, this Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of the 7th day following publication of the notice of adoption.

The vote to approve and adopt this Ordinance was as follows:

YEAS: Appleby, Peterson, Tanis, Turner, Raber, E., Dudek, G. Dudek
NAYS: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.
ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.



By: Joshua Appleby, Village of Lawton, President
By: Brittany Rathbun, Village of Lawton, Clerk

CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Village Council for the Village of Lawton at the time, date, and place as specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.
By Brittany Rathbun, Village of Lawton, Clerk

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• WANTED •

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BANGOR, AN INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME PASTOR to provide biblically based spiritual guidance, teachings, and sermons. Our current pastor is retiring, and we are looking to build ministries to youth, to provide a welcoming place for people of all ages, and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Inquiries may be directed to: The pastoral search committee at: jcbabyar@yahoo.com or to: First Congregational Church of Bangor - Attn: pastoral search committee P.O. Box 127 - Bangor, MI 49013.

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PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE
SOUTH HAVEN AREA
Call 269-903-6397.

• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 1/27/2026 at or after 9:30a.m.
EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Nicole Summerton, 245.

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TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To:The Residents and Property Owners of the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and Any Other Interested Persons:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 01-07-26, which was adopted by the Pine Grove Township Board of Trustees on January 7, 2026. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after the date of publication.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-07-26
VEHICLE REPAIR AND STORAGE ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. NAME. The name of this Ordinance shall be the "Pine Grove Township Vehicle Storage and Repair Ordinance."
SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare by regulating the outdoor storage of motor vehicles and trailers, as defined in the Ordinance.
SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. This Section provides the definitions of terms that are used throughout the Ordinance.
SECTION 4. REGULATIONS. This Section provides regulations for all of the following: prohibition on storage of inoperable vehicles; exceptions to that prohibition for junkyards, dealerships, repair facilities, temporary storage of inoperable vehicles; provides screening requirements; special permit for hardship; prohibition on using vehicles as storage structures; vehicle repair restrictions; farm equipment exemption; seasonal vehicle exception; relation to the Litter and Blight Ordinance.
SECTION 5. NUISANCE DECLARATION. This Section states that any violation of this Ordinance is a nuisance per se and provides enforcement remedies for the Township.
SECTION 6. SANCTIONS. Provides a table of fines for a violation of this Ordinance; states that each day a violation occurs is a separate offense and that any fine does not preclude the Township from obtaining additional relief in court.
SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. If any section of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, the rest of the Ordinance shall not be affected by such a determination.
SECTION 8. REPEAL & SAVINGS CLAUSE. This Section provides that any ordinances that are in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed. Additionally, any judicial proceeding that has been commenced under any ordinance provision repealed by this Ordinance may be continued and enforced to their natural conclusion.
SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Section provides that the Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication following adoption.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a true copy of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Township of Pine Grove at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Michelle Meert, Clerk
26520 County Road 388, Gobles, MI 49055
269-628-4380 • www.pinegrovetownshipmi.gov

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